

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 12, 14-16, 18-26, 28, and 31-33 and 35-44 are pending in the present application, Claims 2, 9, 11, 13, 17, 27, 29-30, and 34 were previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 8, and 26 have been presently amended. No new matter was added.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-10, 12, 14-28 and 31-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,742,769).

Firstly, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the courtesy of Examiner Swearingen to discuss this case with Applicant's representative on February 21, 2008 during which time the issues in the outstanding Office Action and the amendment filed January 18, 2008 were discussed.

Secondly, while Applicant maintains the appropriateness of the arguments presented in the amendment filed January 18, 2008 with regard to differences between the independent claims and Lee et al, in an effort to advance prosecution toward allowance, Applicant requests that the supplemental changes presented here and the following arguments be additionally considered in the examiner's consideration of the question of patentability.

Claim Summary: Claim 1 as clarified defines:

An address inquiry system for informing an inquirer of a new address of a changer based on an old address of the changer via an Internet, the old address having been changed to the new address, the system comprising:

a data base relationally storing at least the old address, the new address, and an address disclosing condition capable of setting a condition whereby the changer judges whether to give permission to disclose the new address;

a means for searching the new address corresponding to the old address and the address disclosing condition from the data base when the inquirer sends an inquiry including the old address;

condition;
a means for informing the inquirer of the new address via the system when the changer permits the disclosure of the new address; and
a means for refusing an inquiry from the inquirer via the system when the changer refuses to permit the disclosure of the new address,
wherein the data base includes a list of specific inquirers who are refused inquiries about the new address, and
wherein the means for refusing adds the inquirer to the list and informs the inquirer that the inquiry is refused when the changer refuses to permit the disclosure of the new address, and ***refuses a subsequent inquiry from the inquirer included in the list until the changer changes a refusal status for the inquirer.***

Support for this clarification is found in Applicant's Figure 25. To be more specific, the specification indicates at page 39, lines 12 to 15, that inquirer 5 is registered to the inquiry refusal list 18, and hereafter inquiries from the inquirer 5 are ***automatically refused*** until the changer 3 changes the setting. In other words, once the changer wishes to refuse an inquiry from an inquirer, the inquirer is added to the list, i.e., his inquiry is hereafter filtered and will never reach the changer.

Regarding the art rejection, as discussed during the interview, Lee et al provide a system and a method that allows a user to receive an email message from a sender without providing the user's email address to the sender. See col. 1, lines 37-40, of Lee et al. Furthermore, while there are various lists in Lee et al such as the listings at col. 6, lines 44-66, these lists pertain to user (i.e., changer) list attributes and is not a list of senders of email (i.e., a list of potential inquirers). Thus, it is only on an email-by-email basis that the user in Lee et al decides whether or not to provide his email address to the email sender.

Thus, the advantage of the presently claimed means for refusing is not disclosed or suggested in Lee et al.

M.P.E.P. § 2131 which requires for anticipation that ***each and every feature*** of the claimed invention must be shown ***in as complete detail as is contained in the claim.***

Applicant respectfully request that the examiner show specifically where Lee et al disclose these features in as complete detail as is contained in the claim, or withdraw the rejection.

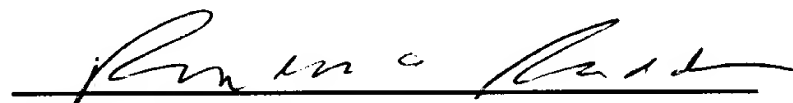
With there being at least no showing of all the features of the claimed means for refusing as defined in Claim 1, Claim 1 is not anticipated by Lee et al. For similar reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 8 and 26 are likewise not anticipated by Lee et al.

Hence Claims 1, 8, and 26 and the claims dependent therefrom are believed to patentably define over Lee et al.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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